UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.3/50/L.62
5 December 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 112 (b)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela: draft resolution

Strengthening of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/135 of 15 December 1989, 45/180 of 21 December 1990, 46/111 and 46/118 of 17 December 1991, 48/129 of 20 December 1993 and 49/195 of 23 December 1994, and bearing in mind all relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights,

Considering that the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms is one of the basic purposes of the United Nations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and a priority activity of the Organization,

Taking into account that in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, concerned by the growing disparity between the activities of the Centre for

Human Rights of the Secretariat and the human, financial and other resources available to carry them out, and bearing in mind the resources needed for other important United Nations programmes, requested the Secretary-General and the General Assembly to take immediate steps to increase substantially the resources for the human rights programme, 1/

Noting that in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the World Conference on Human Rights stressed the importance of strengthening the Centre, 2/

Taking into account the establishment of the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the mandate for the post, including its coordinating role and its overall supervision of the Centre, as well as the request by the General Assembly in resolution 48/141 for appropriate staff and resources to enable the High Commissioner to fulfil his mandate, and noting with concern that the response to this request has not been commensurate with the needs,

Noting that the High Commissioner and the Centre are a unity whereby the High Commissioner sets the policy directions and the priority of action and the Centre implements those policies under the direction of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights,

Taking into account the fact that the responsibilities of the High Commissioner include, inter alia, engaging in a dialogue with all Governments in the implementation of his mandate with a view to the promotion and protection of all human rights, and rationalizing, adapting, strengthening and streamlining the United Nations machinery in the field of human rights with a view to improving its efficiency and effectiveness,

Noting the persistence of a serious imbalance between mandates to be carried out under the human rights programme and resources available to fulfil those mandates,

Concerned at the difficult financial situation and the understaffing of the Office of the High Commissioner and of the Centre, which creates considerable obstacles to carrying out their mandates in full and on time, including those pertaining to the right to development,

Acknowledging that, while further improvement in the function and efficiency of the Centre, together with a strong emphasis on good management practices, is needed in order to enable the Centre to cope with its constantly increasing workload, good management practices need to be complemented by additional resources commensurate with additional mandates,

---

1/ See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, sect. II, para. 9.

2/ Ibid., para. 13.

Welcoming the ongoing process aimed at increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Centre as well as the steps already taken to strengthen its administrative services,

Recognizing that this process will contribute to the strengthening of the functional framework for integrated and consolidated activities of the Secretariat in the field of human rights,

Recalling that in its report to the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council, 3/ the Commission on Human Rights reaffirmed that the paramount consideration in the employment of staff at every level was the need for the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and that it was convinced that that was compatible with the principle of equitable geographical distribution, and bearing in mind Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, 4/ as well as the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 5/

1. Supports and encourages the efforts of the Secretary-General to enhance the role and further improve the functioning of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, under the overall supervision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

2. Stresses the need to ensure that all the necessary financial, material and personnel resources are provided without delay to the High Commissioner and the Centre to enable them to carry out efficiently, effectively and expeditiously, in full and on time, the mandates assigned to them;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to make available additional human and financial resources to enhance the capability of the High Commissioner and of the Centre to fulfil effectively their respective mandates and their ability to carry out mandated operational activities and to coordinate efficiently with other relevant parts of the United Nations system on logistical and administrative questions, having due regard to the need to finance and implement activities of the United Nations related to development;

4. Supports fully the High Commissioner in his efforts to strengthen the human rights programme of the United Nations, inter alia, through measures aimed at restructuring the Centre to improve its efficiency and effectiveness;

3/ E/CN.4/1988/85 and Corr.1.

4/ A/50/678.

5/ A/50/36.

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit an interim report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session and a final report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the strengthening of the human rights programme and on the measures taken to implement the present resolution.